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**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A composition of matter comprising Varicella-Zoster Virus 29p protein having an agent covalently bound thereto, which composition of matter enters a mammalian cell upon contact therewith.
2. (original) The composition of matter of claim 1, wherein the agent is a protein or a peptide.
3. (original) The composition of matter of claim 1, wherein the agent is a nucleic acid molecule.
4. (original) The composition of matter of claim 1, wherein the agent is an organic compound.
5. (currently amended) A composition of matter comprising a Varicella-Zoster Virus 29p protein having ~~operably~~ affixed covalently bound thereto a lipid-soluble moiety which permits the 29p protein to be anchored to a lipid membrane.
6. (original) A lipid vesicle comprising the composition of matter of claim 5 anchored thereto via its lipid-soluble moiety, such that the 29p protein is situated on the vesicle's outer surface and facilitates delivery of the vesicle's contents into a eukaryotic cell when the vesicle is contacted therewith.

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7. (previously presented) The lipid vesicle of claim 6, wherein the vesicle's contents comprise an agent.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method for delivering an agent into a mammalian cell comprising contacting the agent with the cell, wherein the agent has covalently bound thereto Varicella-Zoster Virus 29p protein which enters the cell upon contact therewith, thereby delivering the agent into the cell.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.

12-23. (canceled)